

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
REGULAR EVENTS EACH WEEK**

SUNDAY

Inquirers' Class - Homosexuality/Bible	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship and Children's Church	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship and Praise Service	7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

Choir Praise	6:30 p.m.
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THURSDAY

Bible Study (Maps are available in the foyer) 7:00 p.m.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The closing on the building took place Friday. This building is now ours (and the bank's) !!!! Special thanks to Allan Francis/Emmett Wright for all the work they have done to make this possible.

Monday, January 22nd, 7 p.m. Church History Course. Topic: The Seige of Rome and the Barbarians; the beginning of Medieval Christianity.

Tuesday, January 23, 8 p.m. Deacon Training. Topic: "Coming out."

Wednesday, January 24, 7 p.m. "Healing Dysfunctional Families: Learning to Express Feelings to Others." Come and continue the healing.

Friday, January 26, 7-10 p.m. Common Ground, Young Adult Coffee House (teen to age 25, please).

Saturday, January 27, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Samaritan Course, Introduction to the Old Testament. Everyone is invited.

Kathy Martin would like to meet with every one in the congregation who plays a musical instrument; percussion, horns, flutes, etc. are needed. Please see Kathy in the back of the church after service.

ANNIVERSARY PLANS: Friday, February 16, 7:00 p.m. Carolyn Marshall in concert. Saturday, February 17, 2-4 "High Tea with Troy" and booksigning. Anniversary T-shirts will also be on sale. Saturday, February 17, 7:00 p.m. dinner at the Redmont (\$20.00), the Gospel Girls, and Rev. Elder Troy Perry speaking. Sunday, February 18, 8:30 a.m. breakfast in Familyship Hall (\$5.00). 11:00 a.m. Dedication of the Church, with Rev. Elder Troy Perry preaching. 3:00 p.m. Organ Concert with John Marberry playing music of African-American composers to help celebrate Black History Month.

**SHOW US THY
STEADFAST**



Covenant Metropolitan Community Church

(205)326-8529 3001 Fourth Avenue, South P.O. Box 101473 Birmingham, Alabama 35210

COVENANT METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor Mark Cobb, Interim Choir Director
Worship Coordinator/Tuscaloosa: Dr. Lee Rahe
In Clergy Formation: Andy Mullins (Atlanta), Greg Bullard (Memphis)
Richard Barham, John Foust, Dr. Lee Rahe

Evening Worship
January 21, 1996
7:00 p.m.

SINGSPIRATION

++CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Cobb

ONE: Let us worship God in the beauty of holiness.

MANY: We worship the one God of all times and places, the holy
and compassionate one.

ONE: We come trusting in God's grace to receive us, individually and as
a community.

MANY: Holy, holy, holy God; the world is full of your glory.

ALL: We worship and praise you forever, world without end. Amen.

++THE OPENING HYMN

How Great Thou Art

2

++THE OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Ragona

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Parker

HYMN OF CELEBRATION

I Know Who Holds Tomorrow

96

EVENING OFFERING

Offertory

Mark Moore

++THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
O praise God, Alleluia.
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Praise Maker, Christ and Holy Ghost.
O praise God, O praise God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 65: 13-19

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE SERMON

Servants with a Different Name

Lee Rahe

PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Rev. Marge Ragona

CHRIST'S PRAYER: "Our Creator, who art in heaven..."

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Sacrament

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion is served both at the seats and at the altar; you may
choose to be served at either place.

Note: Communion is served with nonalcoholic grape juice.

Please hold your empty communion cup until the basket is passed.

Please do not put it on the seat. Thank you.

Intercessors are available for prayer on each side of the altar.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Near the Cross

254

++CLOSING HYMN

Living for Jesus

462

++OUR FAMILYSHIP CIRCLE

++THE BENEDICTION AND THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

++ Please stand.

WELCOME VISITORS! Your presence here this evening is a real blessing for
us! We hope you also received a blessing from the service and will consider
making Covenant MCC your church home. Please take a moment to fill out a
Visitor's Card (be sure to include your Zip Code) and drop it into the offering
plate when it is passed. Let us know how we can serve you. WELCOME!

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REGULAR EVENTS EACH WEEK**

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Sunday School for children and adults 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship and Children's Church 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship and Praise Service 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

Choir Praise 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Healing Spiritual Abuse (Pretense/Honesty) 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Bible Study (Maps are available in the foyer) 7:00 p.m.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School begins at 9:30 and runs to 10:30 so choir members can rehearse before worship.

Monday, January 9, 7 p.m. Board Meeting.

The next healing group will begin Wednesday, January 11th at 7 p.m.; topic "Healing from Spiritual Abuse." Everyone is welcome.

Congregational Meeting, January 15th, next Sunday, following luncheon here at the church. Important church business will be decided and you need to be there if you are a member. If you are interested in running for the Board, please give a letter of intent to the Pastor or the Clerk, Greg Adams.

Excel Preview: The next Excel of the Rainbow Zebra weekend will be in Toccoa, Georgia, in the mountains, the weekend of March 31-April 2. Registration forms are in the vestibule. Ask anyone with a rainbow stole.

Every member should have received an accounting of their giving for 1994. Nonmembers who gave by check or envelope can find their records by alphabetic order in a box in the vestibule (or see Allan).



Covenant Metropolitan Community Church

(205)599-3363 5117 First Avenue, North P.O. Box 101473 Birmingham, Alabama 35202

COVENANT METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
John Hankins, Student Clergy
Andy Mullins, Student Clergy
Greg Bullard, Student Clergy (Huntsville)

Evening Worship
January 8, 1995
7:00 p.m.

SINGSPIRATION

++CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Ragona

ONE: We have come to praise God, who has done wonderful things among us.

MANY: In Jesus, the Christ, God has shown us love, giving light for our
darkness, and strength for all our days.

ONE: Sing praises to God's name, bow before God in prayer; open your hearts to
God's saving Word.

MANY: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

++THE OPENING HYMN

Arise, Your Light Has Come

Printed

++THE OPENING PRAYER

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF CELEBRATION

We Three Kings of Orient Are

206

EVENING OFFERING

++THE DOXOLOGY

READINGS FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Matthew 2:1-12

SPECIAL MUSIC

DRAMATIC READING

The Wise Man

Mark Moore

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION CHRIST'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Ragona

Words of Institution
Sharing of the Sacrament
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Note: Communion is served with nonalcoholic grape juice.
Please hold your empty communion cup until the basket is passed.
Please do not put it on the seat. Thank you.
Intercessors are available for prayer on each side of the altar.

CLOSING HYMN

Fairest Lord Jesus

240

++OUR FAMILYSHIP CIRCLE

++THE BENEDICTION

++THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

+ + + +

WELCOME VISITORS! Your presence here this evening is a real blessing for us! We hope you also received a blessing from the service and will consider making CMCC your church home. Please take a moment to fill out a Visitor's Card (be sure to include your Zip Code) and drop it into the offering plate when it is passed. Let us know how we can serve you. **WELCOME!**

POTLUCK DINNER

The following are needed for our potluck luncheon after church and before the congregational meeting:

Meat/chicken

Vegetable

Potato, rice, pasta

Desert

Salad

Forks, knives, spoons (plastic)

Plates and napkins

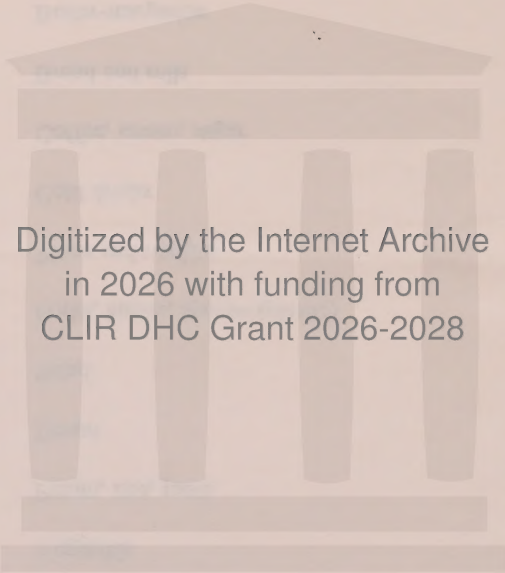
Cold drinks

Coffee, cream, sugar

Bread and rolls

Butter-margarine

Please bring items to the familyship hall prior to service, if possible. Thanks and enjoy your lunch!!



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cross. The clinging ivy represented ourselves, clinging to the rock of our salvation. As we hang the holly and ivy, we rejoice in the coming of the Savior.

**CAROL: "The Holly and the Ivy"*

The holly and the ivy,
when they are both full grown,
of all the trees that are in the wood,
the holly bears the crown.

Refrain:

O the rising of the sun,
and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ,
sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom
as white as lily flower,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
to be our sweet Savior.

Refrain

The holly bears a berry,
as red as any blood,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
to do poor sinners good.

Refrain

The holly bears a prickle,
as sharp as any thorn,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
on Christmas Day in the morn.

Refrain

The holly bears a bark,
as bitter as the gall,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
for to redeem us all.

Refrain

FIFTH READING: John 1:1-5, 9-14 (The Evangelist tells of the coming of the Light of the World.)

Blessing of the Tree (*Unison*)

We put up evergreen trees in our homes and churches to remind us that Christ is the Tree of Life. We put lights on the tree to remind us that the Christ Child came to earth as the Light of the World. As we light our tree, let us call to mind the One who brings light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all.

**CAROL: "O Christmas Tree"*

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
how faithful are your branches!
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
how faithful are your branches!
So green when summer breezes blow;
still green amid the winter snow.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
how faithful are your branches!

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
with light your leaves are gleaming.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
with light your leaves are gleaming.
You send a ray through darkest night,
recalling him whose life was Light.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
with light your leaves are gleaming.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
O tree of green, unchanging.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
O tree of green, unchanging.
Since evergreen you stand, we know
God doth eternal life bestow.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
O tree of green, unchanging.

**BENEDICTION*
POSTLUDE

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HANGING OF THE GREENS

Hanging of the Greens

A Service for the First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

Wake, awake, for night is flying;
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
Awake, Jerusalem, at last!
Midnight hears the welcome voices
and at the thrilling cry rejoices;
come forth, ye virgins, night is past;
the Bridegroom comes, awake;
your lamps with gladness take:
Alleluia!

And for his marriage feast prepare,
for ye must go and meet him there.

Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing;
she wakes, she rises from her gloom;
for her Lord comes down all-glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious.
Her Star is risen; her Light is come.
Ah come, thou blessed One, God's own beloved Son:
Alleluia!

We follow till the halls we see
where thou hast bid us sup with thee.

*Litany of the Greens

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?
With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our
Savior?

**With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever
living, ever green.**

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our
Savior?

**With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion,
death, and resurrection.**

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son
of God?

**By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold
the saving work of God.**

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn
the world, but that the world, through him, might be
saved.

Glorify to God in the highest!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-5 (The prophet proclaims
good news to a people in exile)

*HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Immanuel"

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call.

Refrain

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine Advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Refrain

SECOND READING: Jeremiah 23:5-6 (The Lord promises
to send the people a righteous king.)

The Blessing of the Cedar (*Unison*)

In ancient times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty.
It also signified immortality and was used for purification.

We place this cedar branch in the sanctuary as a symbol
of Christ, who reigns as king forever, and whose coming,
in justice and righteousness, will purify our hearts.

*HYMN: "Joy to the World" (vss. 1 and 3)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as, the curse is found.

THIRD READING: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (The prophet announces
the reign of the Messiah.)

Blessing of the Wreaths (*Unison*)

As the simple circle of evergreen branches signifies a life
without end and the endless reign of the Messiah, we
hang these wreaths to signify the eternal kingdom of
Jesus, the Christ.

*HYMN: "Joy to the World" (vs. 4)

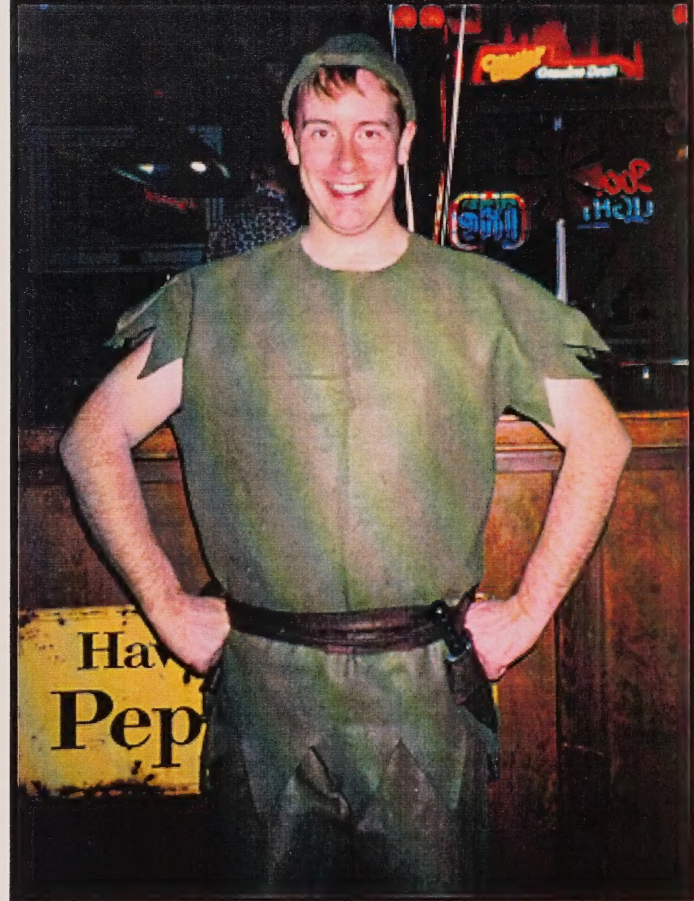
He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

FOURTH READING: Isaiah 53:1-6 (The prophet describes
the redeemer of Israel as the Suffering Servant.)

The Blessing of the Holly and Ivy (*Unison*)

For early Christians the holly suggested our Lord's crown of
thorns, while the bright red berries signified our Savior's
blood and its bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the

ROB ROBERTS



Covenant Metropolitan Community Church

(205) 599-3363 • 5117 First Avenue N. • P.O. Box 101473 • Birmingham, AL 35210

Covenant Metropolitan Community Church

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor Susan Walker, Director of Music
Clergy in Formation: Andy Mullins, Greg Bullard
Lee Rahe, Tuscaloosa Worship Coordinator

Celebration of the Life of Robert B. Roberts
Friday, September 8, 1995

Prelude: *Don't Cry for Me*

Piano Solo: *Great is Thy Faithfulness* Ty Thornton

Psalm 100

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

Many: Worship God with gladness; come into God's presence
with singing.

One: Know that God is Sovereign. It is God that made us,

Many: And we are God's. We are God's people and the sheep
of God's pasture.

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with
praise.

Many: Give thanks to God, and bless God's holy name.

One: For God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever,

Many: And God's faithfulness to all generations.

Opening Prayer

Song: *I Bowed on My Knees and Cried Holy* Cherie
with Greg A., Randall, Eddie, Mark M.

Reading: *The 23rd Psalm* Peg

Song: *His Eye Is On the Sparrow* Eddie

Reading: *Song of Solomon 2: 10-13*

Song: *Thank You* Randall

Reading: *1 John 4: 7-12*

Song: *If We Never Meet Again* Mark Moore

Reading: *John 14: 1-4*

Celebrations of the Life of Rob Roberts

Hymn: *It Is Well With My Soul* 495

Prayer of Comfort Rev. Marge Ragona

Benediction The Choir
Zulu Song (Hal Hopson)

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Morning Worship and Children's Church 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship and Praise Service 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

Choir Praise 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Healing Distorted Images of God
"The Unreliable God"

THURSDAY

Bible Study (Maps are available in the foyer) 7:00 p.m.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Building Fund now stands at \$41,805. Those who made pledges should start their giving as soon as possible. Make your offering in the envelopes provided and mark it "building fund."

We will be presenting a check for \$2500 to Agape House for the Cliff Morrison Memorial Apartment at this evening's worship service.

Today is Member Appreciation Day. Two new deacons, Peg Schoettlin and John Foust were dedicated at the morning service. Members will be appreciated this evening.

Monday, September 11, 6 p.m. Personnel Committee meeting;
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting.

Tuesday, September 12, 8 p.m. Care Team Meeting (downstairs) and Youth and Children's Ministry Meeting (upstairs).

Inquirer's classes will be taught at the Sunday School hour, 9:30 a.m., beginning today. If you are interested in church membership or just in the beliefs of MCC, please attend then. September 17, "Polity: Christ the Cornerstone," and September 24, "Homosexuality and the Bible."

Remember to contact Nancy U. about TLC for CMCC -- do your stress reduction and help the Building Fund at the same time.

Lord,

*make me an
instrument of thy peace.*

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that

I may not so much seek

To be consoled, as to console,

To be understood, as to understand,

To be loved, as to love;

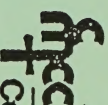
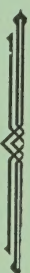
for

It is in giving, that we receive;

It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned;

It is in dying, that we awaken to eternal life.

St. Francis of Assisi



COVENANT METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor Susan Walker, Director of Music
 Worship Coordinator/Tuscaloosa: Lee Rahe
 In Clergy Formation: Andy Mullins, Greg Bullard

Evening Worship
 September 10, 1995
 7:00 p.m.

SINGSPIRATION

++CALL TO WORSHIP

Kay Hendrix

ONE: Rejoice in our God always! Again, I say rejoice!

MANY: For God has gathered us together from all the corners of the earth,

ONE: To be present now, and to know the joyful unity of being one with Christ.

MANY: Rejoice in our God always! Again, I say rejoice.

++THE OPENING HYMN

Faith Is the Victory

71

++THE OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Ragona

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Parker

DEDICATION OF GIFT TO AGAPE HOUSE

HYMN OF CELEBRATION

Since Jesus Came into My Heart

639

EVENING OFFERING

Offertory

Mark Moore

++THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
 Praise God all creatures here below.
 O praise God, Alleluia.
 Praise God above ye heavenly host,
 Praise Maker, Christ and Holy Ghost.
 O praise God, O praise God.
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURE

Psalm 26
 Philippians 3: 13-16
 John 8: 12-18

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE SERMON

Walk!

Andy Mullins

PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Rev. Ragona

CHRIST'S PRAYER: "Our Creator, who art in heaven..."

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Institution
 Sharing of the Sacrament
 Prayer of Thanksgiving

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Please do not put it on the seat. Thank you.

Intercessors are available for prayer on each side of the altar.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

416

++CLOSING HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

318

++ OUR FAMILYSHIP CIRCLE

++THE BENEDICTION AND THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

++ Please stand.

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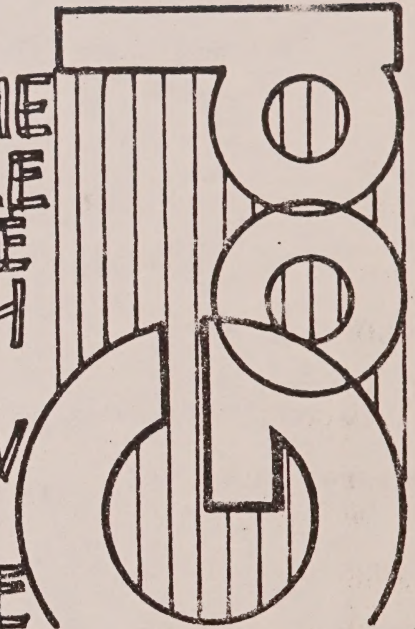
Winter

aise the Lord from the earth,
ye dragons, and all deeps;
re, and hail; snow, and vapors;
stormy wind fulfilling his word:
ountains, and all hills;
fruitful trees, and all cedars . . .

om Psalm 148



THAT
ALL THE
PEOPLE
OF THE
EARTH
MAY
KNOW
THY
NAME



Covenant Metropolitan Community Church

